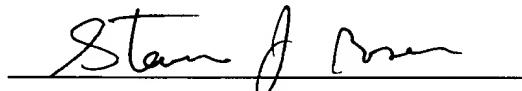


present invention prior to the effective or filing date of the Mannava '009 patent. The Declaration states that the Applicants conceived and reduced to practice the present invention prior to the effective or filing date of the Mannava '009. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Mannava, in view of Neal, has been overcome by the remarks above and the attached 1.131(b) Declaration and should be withdrawn.

3. The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-20 are now in condition for allowance based on the amendments and remarks above.

Respectfully submitted,



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